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O R 262120Z APR 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 400
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 943
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IP5

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (☒) In Part () In Full

☒ Classify as C () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date 4/25/01 Declassify on 4/25/10 Reason 25X6

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 3314

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/26/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - APRIL 26, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3107

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY/TRENDS: OF PROBABLE GREATEST LONG TERM
SIGNIFICANCE THIS WEEK WAS NEWS THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA SIGNED
THE LONG EXPECTED PRISONER TREATMENT CODE, AND THAT IT HAD
BEEN SENT TO A RANKING CIVILIAN-MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR
IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS TO BE ISSUED. WE HAVE RECEIVED
NO REPORTS OF APRIL DISAPPEARANCES. THE TWO MARCH
DISAPPEARANCES (THE BARREIROS' CASE, REPORTED EARLIER)
HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZED IN THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD BUT
REMAIN UNSOLVED. END SUMMARY/TRENDS.

PART I - NEW EVENTS AND INDICATORS -----
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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2. (U) CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE REFORMS PROPOSED -----
THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 18 THAT DRAFT

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REFORMS TO THE ARGENTINE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE HAD BEEN PREPARED. AMONG THE NUMEROUS TECHNICAL PROPOSALS, BRIEFLY DESCRIBED, SEVERAL APPEAR SIGNIFICANT: UNIFICATION OF CURRENT TWO-STEP CRIMINAL TRIAL PROCEDURE, REDUCTION OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH PRISONERS MAY BE HELD INCOMMUNICADO (WHICH NOW IS A FIVE-DAY PERIOD AND CAN BE EXTENDED ONCE), SIMPLIFICATION OF THE PAROLE SYSTEM, FINES AGAINST UNWILLING WITNESSES OR PERSONS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY COURT, AND CREATION OF NEW CRIMINAL COURTS (CAMARA DEL CRIMEN AND CAMARA DEL CRIMEN Y PENAL ECONOMICO). COMMENT: WE WILL REPORT THE REACTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL BAR AND HRO'S AS SOON AS THE LANGUAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL IS MADE PUBLIC.

3. (U) MORE ON JUNIN PRISON -----
AS REPORTED REFTEL THE
MODEL PRISON AT JUNIN WAS INAUGURATED ON APRIL 18,
ONE REPORT (SEE PARA. 14) IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE USED FOR PEN
PRISONERS. THE PRISON, WHICH IS
LOCATED OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF JUNIN
IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, WAS DESIGNED FOR 320
PRISONERS BUT ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS COULD BE
INCREASED TO 500, IF NEEDED. THE 50 ACRE FACILITY IS
MADE UP OF A NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS CONNECTED
BY WALLED AND COVERED PASSAGEWAYS AND SURROUNDED BY
HIGH CHAIN-LINKED FENCES. THE ENTIRE COMPLEX IS
MONITORED BY 74 CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS. THE
FACILITY HAS TWO SEPARATE PAVILIONS FOR MEN--ONE FOR
MAXIMUM, THE OTHER FOR MINIMUM SECURITY. EACH HAS 40
CELLS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE 20 ISOLATION CELLS, PLUS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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SERVICE BUILDINGS FOR COOKING, LAUNDRY, BAKING, AND
SHOPS. THERE IS ALSO A WOMEN'S PAVILION WHICH IS DIVIDED
INTO THREE SECTIONS. THE PRISON WILL BE RUN BY THE
PROVINCIAL PRISON AUTHORITIES OF BUENOS AIRES. IT WAS
CONSTRUCTED IN 1977 AS A MILITARY PRISON BUT WAS
NOT OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED. (SEE PARA 15 RE CASEROS
PRISON INAUGURATION.)

4. [REDACTED] CLANDESTINE FACILITIES DECOMMISSIONED -----
IN RECENT WEEKS THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION
REGARDING THE "DECOMMISSIONING" OF THREE FACILITIES PRE-
VIOUSLY REPORTED TO HOLD CLANDESTINE PRISONERS. "LA ARANA",
AN INTERROGATION AND DETENTION FACILITY, WHICH REPORTEDLY

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HOUSED 12 PRISONERS AS RECENTLY AS JANUARY 1979, HAS BEEN DYNAMITED. THIS FACILITY, LOCATED ON THE ESTANCIA OF THE SAME NAME 50 KMS SOUTH OF THE CITY OF LA PLATA WAS VISITED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE LA PLATA BRANCH OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY. THESE INDIVIDUALS REPORTED TO THE ASSEMBLY THAT EXPLOSIVES HAD BEEN DETONATED IN THE BUILDING AND THE FACILITY DESTROYED. THEY NOTED THAT THE BASE OF THE WALLS OF THE SMALL INDIVIDUAL CELLS ON THE GROUND FLOOR COULD BE IDENTIFIED.

5. [REDACTED] ANOTHER FACILITY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES ON PASEO COLON NEAR THE PORT AREA HAS BEEN RAZED. THIS INTERROGATION FACILITY, WELL KNOWN IN HUMAN RIGHTS CIRCLES FROM STORIES OF ITS SPIRAL STAIRCASE TOLD BY FORMER PRISONERS, WAS REPORTEDLY RUN BY ARMY INTELLIGENCE. (COMMENT: A NUMBER OF PRISONERS HOUSED IN THIS FACILITY WAS TRANSFERRED TO A NEW DETENTION SITE NEAR EZEIZA AIRPORT IN EARLY 1978, ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES. END COMMENT)

6. [REDACTED] THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE MODEL PRISON AT JUNIN AS A BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL PRISON SIGNALS THE PROBABLE CLOSING OF A LONG SUSPECTED FACILITY FOR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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CLANDESTINE HOLDING. JUNIN HAS BEEN REPORTED BY HUMAN RIGHTS AND FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES AS HAVING HOUSED UNRECOGNIZED PRISONERS.

7. (U) DECREE ISSUED ON PRISONER TREATMENT -----
THE ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTED ON APRIL 22 THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS SIGNED A DECREE ESTABLISHING THE STANDARDS OF TREATMENT AND CONDUCT FOR ALL PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA. THE EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED (AFTERNOON 4/26) A COPY OF THE DETAILED DECREE FROM THE FOWG AND WILL SUBMIT A REPORT BY SEPTEL.

8. (U) ORFILA ON IACHR VISIT -----
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPORTED ON AN INTERVIEW HELD BY A LOCAL RADIO STATION WITH OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA ON APRIL 21. THE STORY EMPHASIZED ORFILA'S STATEMENT THAT THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE ARGENTINE [REDACTED]

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GOVERNMENT TO IACHR TO COME TO BUENOS AIRES HAS CAUSED
AN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON THE UNITED STATES
AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS CONTINENT. ORFILA SAID
THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE
COMING TO ARGENTINA AS THIS DEPENDED ON FORMING TWO NEW
BODIES WITHIN THE OAS. THE DATE, HE NOTED, WOULD BE
SET LATER, AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERN-
MENT CONCERNING THE VISIT. (COMMENT: FOWG SOURCE TOLD
EMBOFF THIS WEEK THAT FORMIN NOW EXPECTED IACHR VISIT
IN EARLY OR MID-AUGUST. END COMMENT)

9. (U) BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMEN SEEK RELEASE OF PEN
PRISONERS -----

THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPORTED ON APRIL 26 THAT A
GROUP OF BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMEN FROM THE ARENA AND
OPPOSITION MDD PARTIES PLAN TO SEEK AUDIENCES WITH THE
PRESIDENTS OF ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY IN MAY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF BRAZILIAN "POLITICAL

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PRISONERS" HELD IN THESE THREE COUNTRIES.

10. [REDACTED] RIGHT OF OPTION MEETINGS SPARK RUMORS -----
MININT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING GENERAL
HARGUINDEGUY'S RECENT MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (REFTEL) SET UP UNDER
THE RIGHT OF OPTION LAW HAVE SPARKED RUMORS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RELEASE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEN
PRISONERS IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. RECENT EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH MILITARY,
INTERIOR AND FORMIN OFFICIALS HOWEVER DO NOT SUPPORT THESE
SPECULATIONS. GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE UNIFORMLY
MAINTAINED THE NECESSITY OF HOLDING AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER
OF PERSONS UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION WHO ARE DANGEROUS
OR INTELLECTUAL SUBVERSIVES BUT ON WHOM THE GOVERNMENT
HAS INSUFFICIENT PROOF TO CONVICT IN EITHER A MILITARY
OR CIVILIAN COURT. THE ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL RECENTLY
DREW THE PARALLEL BETWEEN EXTENDED PEN DETENTIONS AND
THE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN AT THE NUREMBURG TRIALS,
POINTING OUT THAT AT THE END OF EACH WAR THE WINNERS
LOCK UP THE SURVIVING LOSERS.

11. (U) BODIES WASH UP ON URUGUAYAN SHORE -----
BUENOS AIRES PAPERS REPORTED ON APRIL 10, 1979 THAT
THREE BODIES HAD WASHED UP WITHIN A WEEK ON THE URUGUAYAN
COAST A HUNDRED MILES EAST OF MONTEVIDEO. THE BUENOS
AIRES HERALD NOTED IN ITS STORY THAT IN OCTOBER, 1976,
13 BODIES WASHED UP ON URUGUAYAN SHORES, SOME WITH
THEIR HANDS TIED BEHIND THEIR BACK AND IT WAS
SPECULATED THEN THAT THESE BODIES MAY HAVE BEEN VICTIMS
OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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12. [REDACTED] COMMENT: HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ARE SPECULATING
THE SAME THING NOW, BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHER
POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS. END COMMENT.

13. [REDACTED] REAPPEARANCE REPORT CIRCULATES WIDELY -----
SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT A YOUNG
DOCTOR WHO WAS ABDUCTED IN EARLY 1977 WAS RETURNED
BRIEFLY TO HIS HOME IN MAID-MARCH AND THEN TAKEN BY
ARMY OPERATIVES AND PLACED ON A FLIGHT ABROAD. ONE
SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HER INFORMATION CAME FROM THE
MOTHER OF THE DOCTOR'S FORMER GIRLFRIEND WHO HAD BEEN

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ABDUCTED WITH HIM. THE DOCTOR REPORTEDLY HAD SOME CONTACTS WITH HIS FAMILY DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION REGARDING THIS SPECIFIC REPORT, IT APPEARS TO FIT A PATTERN OF SEVERAL OTHER RECENT REPORTS IN WHICH TRUSTYS HAVE BEEN PLACED OUTSIDE OF ARGENTINA BY SECURITY SERVICES. THOSE UNSUBSTANTIATED RELEASE REPORTS, OF COURSE, FUEL THE HOPES OF FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE ALIVE. END COMMENT.

14. [REDACTED] PRISONS FOR PEN DETAINEES -----
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INAUGURATED THE CASEROS JAIL ON APRIL 23. THE NEW 18 FLOOR HIGH RISE LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES WAS DESIGNED TO HOUSE 1,860 PRISONERS, EACH IN SMALL INDIVIDUAL CELLS. THE BUILDING HAS, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL FACILITIES, AN AUDITORIUM, A GYMNASIUM AND A GAME ROOM, BUT VERY LIMITED OUTDOOR RECREATION ROOM. THE FACILITY WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR SHORT TERM DETENTION OF FEDERAL PRISONERS IN TRANSIT OR ON TRIAL. [REDACTED] HAS EXAMINED THE FACILITY AND HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT DID NOT CONSIDER THE FACILITY SUITABLE FOR LONG TERM DETENTION OF PEN PRISONERS. A FOWG OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY THIS WEEK THAT THE INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES HAD DECIDED TO USE CASEROS ONLY FOR SHORT TERM DETENTION

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OF PEN PRISONERS. FOWG SOURCE ALSO INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE JAIL LOCATED AT JUNIN, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE WILL NOT BE USED FOR PEN PRISONERS. INSTEAD, THE LARGER PRISON AT LA PLATA WILL CONTINUE SERVING AS THE MAJOR DETENTION FACILITY FOR MEN HELD UNDER THE PEN. THE ADDITION TO THE LA PLATA PRISON, FEMALE PEN PRISONERS WILL BE HELD AT VILLA DEVOTO, "VERY DANGEROUS MALE PEN PRISONERS WILL BE HELD AT RAWSON, A PRISON IN PATAGONIA, AND "SHORT TERM" PRISONERS WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW CASEROS FACILITY. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT [REDACTED] OBJECTIONS OVER USING THE NEW HIGH RISE CASEROS PRISON FOR LONG TERM PEN DETENTIONS MAY HAVE FORCED DROPPING THE PROPOSAL TO USE THE 360 PERSON JUNIN PRISON, IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING THE LARGER LA PLATA FACILITY. END COMMENT.

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PART II - FOLLOW UPS, UPDATES AND REVERBERATIONS -----

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5. (U) BARREIRO DISAPPEARANCE UPDATE -----
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD FRONT PAGED ON APRIL 21 THE STORY OF THE
MARCH 12 ABDUCTION OF MR. AND MRS. ROBERTO M. BARREIRO
(CASE NOS. 893/79/4 AND 894/79/4) (SEE BUENOS AIRES 2828).
THE STORY REPORTED THE EFFORTS OF MR. BARREIRO'S MOTHER

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TO LOCATE HER SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW THROUGH FILING
HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS, WRITING PRESIDENT VIDELA,
INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY, THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS,
THE POPE AND CHURCH LEADERS. THE HERALD STORY ALSO
REPORTED THAT BARREIROS MOTHER HAD BEEN ABDUCTED FOR A
SHORT PERIOD OF TIME WITH HER DAUGHTER IN LAW. THE
CAPTORS REPORTEDLY DROVE THEM BOTH AROUND THE CITY
EXCHANGING INSTRUCTIONS OVER THEIR CAR RADIOS UNTIL
THEY WERE TOLD TO TAKE MRS. BARREIRO HOME AND BRING
HER DAUGHTER IN LAW "HERE".

16. [REDACTED] FOWG OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF ON MARCH 26 THAT THE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WAS CONDUCTING AN EXTENSIVE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCES AND PROMISED
A REPORT WILL BE ISSUED ON THE MATTER SHORTLY. THE
EMBASSYS INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE

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SERVICES HAVE PRODUCED NO INFORMATION REGARDING
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THE BARREIROS' WHEREABOUTS.

17. (U) JAIME LOKMAN CASE UPDATE (CASE NO 90/77/9) ---
MRS9 LOKMAN ON APRIL 26 PRESENTED THE EMBASSY A COPY
OF HER PETITION TO THE SUPREME COURT APPEALING THE
FEDERAL COURT OF APPEAL OF CORDOBA DENIAL OF THE HABEAS
CORPUS PETITION ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND, JAIM LOKMAN.
THE APPEAL WAS FILED WITH THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT
DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 9. MRS LOKMAN ALSO EXPRESSED
CONCERN REGARDING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF HER HUSBAND
FROM LA PLATA PRISON TO THE NEW CASEROS JAIL. MRS
LOKMAN IS TRYING TO GET THE PRISON AUTHORITIES TO
RUN AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM ON HER HUSBAND WHO HAS A HEART
CONDITION. SHE SAYS THE RED CROSS DOES NOT HAVE THE
EQUIPMENT TO DO THIS AND THE PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE
NOT PROVIDED THIS BASIC EXAMINATION FOR HER HUSBAND.

18. (U) FRENCH ANTI-ARGENTINE CAMPAIGN REPORTEDLY REDUCED ---
ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, TOMAS ANCHORENA,
ANNOUNCED IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 15 THAT
THE ANTI-ARGENTINE MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE HAD
SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPED IN INTENSITY. ANCHORENA NOTED
THAT EUROPE, AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR, HAVE VERIFIED
THAT ARGENTINE DID NOT OVER-REACT WHEN IT INITIATED
A WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED
THAT IT IS NOW THE OLD WORLD WHICH FACES A LARGE SCALE
INSURRECTION GENERATED BY THE SAME TERRORIST FORCES.

19. (U) CABILDO EDITORS FINED ----
FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IMPOSED A FINE OF \$166 AND A
SUSPENDED TWO YEAR PRISON SENTENCE ON RICARDO CURUCHET
OROMI AND JUAN CARLOS MONEDERO, THE DIRECTOR AND
EDITOR OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING MAGAZINE, "CABILDO,"
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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AFTER FINDING THEM GUILTY OF "SLANDER AND ABUSE, AGGRAVATED
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE PRESS." THE SLANDER CHARGES
WERE BROUGHT BY MOISES KOSTZER, A WEALTHY JEWISH BUSI-

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NESSMAN WHO WAS ATTACKED IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER, 1977 ISSUE OF "CABILDO,"
AS BEING A MARXIST THEORIST AND AN ECONOMIC SUBVERSIVE.
ACCORDING TO A DAIA SOURCE, THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO
THE COURT SHOWED THAT THE NAME USED IN THE LETTER WAS
FICTITIOUS AND THE CHARGES BASELESS. THE CABILDO
EDITORS ARE APPEALING THE JUDGE'S DECISION.
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